

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 DOTE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PRS-01 PA-01 /055 W

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R 111143Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONGEN BOMBAY

AMCONGEN CALCUTTA

AMCONGEN MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, NP, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-NEPAL TRADE AND TRANSIT TREATY TALKS

1. GOI HAS RELEASED LETTERS BETWEEN GOI AND GON EXPLAINING THAT THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS ON IDO-NEPAL TRADE AND TRANSIT TREATY WILL START

IN KATHMANDU ON AUGUST 21 AND LAST ABOUT ONE WEEK. P.N.

ALEXANDER, FOREIGN TRADE SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, WILL LEAD THE GOI DELEGATION. INDIA HAS AGREED TO AN EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT TREATY WHILE THE TALKS ARE STILL IN PROGRESS.

ACCORDING TO M. RAGOSTRA, INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN KATHMANDU, GON FOREIGN SECRETARY BHATT CONVEYED THE THE DESIRE OF THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT TO

CONCLUDE THESE TALKS DURING THE NEXT ROUND. IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL, GON MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE GURUNG WILL COME TO NEW DELHI FOR FORMAL SIGNING OF THE NEW TREATY.

2. NEPALESE COUNSELOR RANA CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THE ACCURACY OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS REPORTED IN THE INDIA PRESS AUGUST 11. HE WAS MORE DEFINITE ABOUT THE DURATION OF THE SECOND ROUND:

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AUGUST 21-28. RANA NOTED THAT THE GOI WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

DELAY IN THE RESUMPTION OF THESE TALKS BECAUSE (HE THOUGHT)
THE GOI WOULD EXPERIENCE LESS PRESSURE AFTER THE CONCLUSION
OF THE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. HE WAS SOMEWHAT AFRAID THAT
THE GOI MIGHT TAKE A HARD LINE AT THE SECOND ROUND,
BUT GENERALLY HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT A DRAFT AGREEMENT COULD
BE REACHED THEN. RANA SAID THAT THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK
FROM THE INDIAN SIDE HAD BEEN THE NEPALESE DESIRE FOR TWO
SEPARATE TREATIES, BUT THAT THE GON HAD WITHDRAWN THIS REQUEST.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NEPALESE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING
THE GOI TO EXTEND THE PRESENT TREATY (IN CONTRAST TO LAST TIME
IN 1970-71 WHEN IT WAS ALLOWED TO EXPIRE.) RANA HOPED THAT
A NEW FIVE YEAR TRADE AND TRANSIT TREATY COULD BE SIGNED IN NEW
DELHI THIS SEPTEMBER.
SAXBE

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